

GUNSHOT WOUND OF ABDOMEN INVOLVING THE STOMACH AND JEJUNUM, COMPLICATED WITH PREGNANCY.

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CASE RECORD.—White, female, 23 years of age; married, mother of one child; housewife by occupation. Was admitted to the hospital in the forenoon of January 26, 1907, with a gunshot wound in epigastrium, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from middle line on right side and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches downward from the ensiform cartilage, and gunshot wound in right hand between the second and third metacarpal bones. On admission, pulse, 120; temperature, 100° ; respiration, 28.

History of Present Illness.—While standing in her room with a child in her arms, she was shot and wounded as above described, at 6.00 P.M., the day before admission to the hospital.

Examination at the time revealed a bullet wound penetrating the abdominal cavity in a direction slightly upwards and towards the right. From the wound a serous fluid and gas escaped on pressure being applied. The abdomen distended markedly, with evidence of gas in the abdominal cavity. The uterus was enlarged and the patient seven months pregnant. Placental bruit and foetal heart distinctly heard. The quickened respiration, rapid pulse, tenderness, rigidity and pain over the entire abdomen, the temperature and facial aspect determined accurately that a sharp peritonitis was in progress, and an immediate operation was undertaken under ether anæsthesia. An incision was made into the abdomen, just to the right of the midline, extending from a point a little below the ensiform cartilage downward to the umbilicus.

Upon opening the abdominal cavity, the parietal peritoneum in the region of the wound and the visceral peritoneum were injected and covered here and there with pus. In the anterior wall of the stomach, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the inferior border, was a large ragged opening extending through all the coats of the stomach, 3 inches long, running upwards toward the pylorus. The mucous membrane on the posterior surface opposite this wound, and in a space covering almost the entire pyloric area, was injected, and

at the centre of this injected area, a large mass of contused tissue appeared. The stomach contents, pus, serum and blood, filled the cavity of the abdomen. At a point in the jejunum, about 14 inches from the fossæ of Treitz, were three punctured wounds, irregular and ragged in outline, penetrating the coats of the gut. Two were in the anterior aspect of the gut, 1 inch apart, and the third in apparently another coil at the upper border of the gut 14 inches lower down the tract. This coil of intestines was glued together by adhesions and much pus and intestinal contents noted in and around the points of injury, and on every hand evidence of peritonitis.

Procedure.—The detritus found in the cavity was washed out by saline solution—the intestines thoroughly washed and searched for injury. The wound in the stomach was treated by a free incision well beyond the bruised area, in order to get healthy tissue to approximate, and the wound united by continuous sutures through the muscular and submucous coats, a layer of Czerny-Lembert sutures, reinforced by Halsted's sutures, completed the union of the rest of the wound. The wounds in the gut were closed by Lembert sutures.

The contused area spoken of in the posterior wall of the stomach was cleared away by cutting out mucous membrane and part of the muscle wall of the stomach and the edges brought together by continuous submucous sutures. The patient was but a short time under the ether and stood the operation well. Intravenous saline 1000 c.c. given during the operation and a large amount of saline solution was left in the cavity. The bullet was not found. The incision was closed in layer, with a cigarette drain down to wound in stomach.

The patient made an uneventful recovery. The only treatment being thirty-six hours of slow rectal irrigations and morphia, to prevent possible uterine contractions.

The patient left the hospital on February 15. Came back two weeks later to arrange for her delivery there and was then well. Was in due time delivered of a healthy child and to-day is as well as ever.